

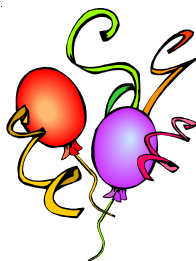
ECEAP News

January 2006

Volume 2, Issue 2

Quarterly news from CTED's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

**ECEAP 20-Year
Anniversary!!!**



1986-2006

2006 marks the 20-year anniversary for ECEAP. The Washington State Legislature established ECEAP in 1985 as a community-based program with comprehensive services to help low-income and at-risk children succeed in school and life. Since its implementation, ECEAP has served more than 118,000 children and their families.

We will be sponsoring an anniversary celebration in Olympia the evening of February 15, 2006, in conjunction with the Washington State Association conference. Watch for more information on this event.

Local programs can use the 20-year milestone as a springboard to plan community activities and build awareness of ECEAP. We encourage you to work with parents and partners to host events in 2006 that help you expand outreach and complement your public relations activities. With that in mind, the State ECEAP Office is producing a 20-Year Anniversary Report you can use. The report will be available at the February 15th Olympia event. Come and help us celebrate!

WHAT'S INSIDE

20 Year Anniversary	1
Standards Update	1
Step Ahead	2
Basic Food Program	2
DECA Training Opportunities ...	3
Vinyl Lunch Boxes and Lead ...	3
ECEAP Stars	4



Standards Rewrite Update

As you know, we are working hard to revise the ECEAP Performance Standards and WACs.

Don't forget!!! January 20, 2006 is the deadline for electronic input into Survey Monkey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=125711608370>. Please make sure you take advantage of this opportunity to comment. We want to hear from everyone who plays a part in implementing the Performance Standards! You can access a copy of the draft Standards at: http://qa.cted.wa.gov/_CTED/documents/ID_2708_Publications.doc.

On February 14, 2006, as a "pre-event" to WSA, we are holding a meeting on the proposed changes to the Standards and WACs. This meeting will be open to ECEAP directors, staff, and parents. Mark your calendars!

Standards/WAC Meeting
February 14, 2006, 1:00-4:30 PM
Westwood Baptist Church
333 Kaiser Road NW
Olympia, WA 98502

The 2006 public hearings for the WAC revision will be held on the following dates:

April 26	3:00-5:00 PM	Pasco
May 1	3:00-5:00 PM	Olympia
May 10	3:00-5:00 PM	Spokane

Hearing locations will be determined at a later date.

City of Seattle and ECEAP Step Ahead!

What would you do if your community had nearly \$4 million to expand your support for early learning?



In Fall 2004, Seattle voters granted this opportunity by passing a Family and Education

Levy that included \$3.9 million per year for seven years. Along with other public and private funding, the City intends to build on the already effective programs, services, and systems that exist to create two Early Learning Networks (ELNs). The ELNs expand early learning resources and services to additional low-income children ages birth-to-five and their families in two high-needs neighborhoods. Towards this end, the levy provides funding for:

- **Step Ahead Pre-K.** The largest component of the levy set aside \$3 million to establish a pre-K program that picks up where ECEAP leaves off—allowing programs to serve four-year-old children whose families' income falls between 110%-300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- **Early Learning Networks.** The funding will bring together the broad range of partners and resources that are connected to early learning, and build Early Learning Networks in both southeast and southwest Seattle. ELN partners—including Pre-K and child care providers, community leaders, human service providers, health clinics, libraries, parents/families, elementary schools and others—will focus on ensuring that all children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.
- **A Professional Development System.** It creates a professional development system that supports all teachers in ELN Pre-K programs, including staff that serve children ages birth-to-five. Professional development will use proven practices to ensure cultural relevance and strengthen the use of High/Scope and Creative Curriculum. It will also create a pathway toward teacher certification and prepare high quality early childhood teachers.

- **Compensation.** It provides increased compensation for child care staff in the southeast and southwest neighborhoods to reduce turnover and reward professional development.
- **Parent-Child Home Program.** Home visits to low-income families with toddlers in southeast and southwest Seattle who are not in preschool programs will enhance the families' skills in promoting literacy.
- **Kindergarten transition.** Systems coordination and services to parents, schools, and community organizations will assure that children from the ELN neighborhoods make successful transitions to kindergarten.
- **Child Care Subsidies.** Families who require full-day child care are enrolled in a full-day ELN Pre-K program. Those eligible for a city subsidy may receive a subsidy for their ELN child.

It's exciting times in the world of early learning, and we look forward to increasing access and quality for all children and families!

*Karen Akada Sakata, Program Manager
City of Seattle ECEAP*

Did You Know???

Washington state's hunger rate continues to be significantly higher than the national rate.

Nearly 105,000 households in Washington are food insecure and hungry.* Over 90% of ECEAP families qualify for the Basic Food Program, yet less than 40% access it. Many families are reluctant because of the stigma attached to food stamps.

But, now ECEAP families that qualify for Basic Food can buy healthy foods with an Electronic Benefit Transfer card. EBT cards work like debit cards. Families can spend their monthly benefits with just a swipe through a debit machine.

For more information call:
The Family Food Hotline, 1-888-4-FOOD-WA
(1-888-436-6392),
or <https://www2.wa.gov/dshs/onlineecs/ebt.asp>

**Children's Alliance, November 2005*





DECA Training Opportunities

The State ECEAP Office at CTED is sponsoring training on DECA. The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) is a strength-based assessment and planning system to promote resilience and strengthen socio-emotional skills in children two-to-five. To learn more, see <http://www.devereuxearlychildhood.org/about/about-deca.html>.

2-Day DECA Basic Implementation Training

This training provides participants with knowledge and skills to implement the five steps of the DECA Program. It is useful for early childhood teachers, assistant teachers, education coordinators, family support workers, mental health providers, supervisors, and other early education professionals.

Trainer: Constant Hine

Vancouver Jan. 17-18 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Spokane Feb. 13-14 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Yakima Feb. 22-23 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Free for ECEAP, \$125 for non-ECEAP w/materials,
\$100 no-show fee for everyone.*

DECA 3-Hour Classroom Strategies Training

For people who have used DECA for a year or more, this training will deepen your understanding of using DECA to plan classroom strategies and meet the needs of individual children.

Trainer: Constant Hine

Vancouver Jan. 19 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Renton Jan. 20 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Olympia Jan. 23 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Spokane Feb. 15 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Yakima Feb. 24 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*Free for ECEAP, \$25 for non-ECEAP w/materials,
\$25 no-show fee for everyone*

Local Program Mentor Training

This training is for people who have attended DECA Basic Implementation training and want to train or support others in their program to use DECA.

Trainer: Nefertiti Bruce

Renton Feb. 13-14 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Free for ECEAP, \$285 for non-ECEAP w/materials,
\$285 no-show fee for everyone*

Spokane Feb. 15-16 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Fees are the same as the Renton class, but non-ECEAP staff
must register by contacting Patt Earley: 509.358.7608,
pearley@wsu.edu.*

Some Vinyl Lunch Boxes Contain Harmful Levels of Lead

The Washington State Department of Ecology recently asked retailers to immediately pull some soft vinyl lunchboxes from store shelves because of high lead levels. Children could swallow lead that rubs off onto their hands or unwrapped food, exposing them to unacceptable levels of lead. Parents take great care in packing healthy meals for their children, and now they are learning the containers may pose a risk.

Lead is used as a stabilizer in some vinyl products. Tests by California's Center for Environmental Health showed that lead in soft vinyl lunchboxes does not stay bound to the vinyl. One box tested 560 times Washington state's legal limit for lead in packaging. Exposure to these high levels of lead can cause learning problems and neurological damage.

The lunchboxes with high lead levels were manufactured in China. Of 158 boxes tested, 10 to 20 percent contained high lead levels. For a list of some brand-names that had high levels of lead, visit http://www.cehca.org/lunchbox_factsheet.pdf.

California Center for Environmental Health
<http://www.cehca.org/lunchboxes.htm>

Washington State Department of Ecology, 12/15/05 press release, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2005news/2005-299.html>



Some lunch boxes that have been found to contain high levels of lead.

ECEAP Stars!

From High School Summer Worker to ECEAP Lead Teacher

Esther Ashe got her start in ECEAP when she was still in high school. While attending Wahkiakum High School in Cathlamet, she served as a summer youth employee in the preschool child-care and ECEAP programs at St. James Family Center. At St. James, Esther worked under the guidance of ECEAP Lead Teacher, Mary Ann Nelson.

Esther is now a fully qualified ECEAP Lead Teacher. She is once again working with Mary Ann - this time as a peer!



Because of this experience, Esther was prompted to seek a degree in Early Childhood Education. She enrolled at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington, and obtained her Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Tell us your story!

We welcome submissions to feature your staff persons in the new profile section.

Children's Services Unit Staff

Lynne Shanafelt
Managing Director
360.725.2829
lynnes@cted.wa.gov

Eileen Ackerman
ECEAP Program Manager
360.725.2862
eileena@cted.wa.gov

Susan Dunlap
Program Assistant
360.725.2835
susand@cted.wa.gov

Melonie Norton
Program Assistant
360.725.2830
melonien@cted.wa.gov

Karen Healy
Program Coordinator
360.725.2844
karenh@cted.wa.gov

Jim Pivec
Program Coordinator
360.725.2833
jimp@cted.wa.gov

Susan Ray
Program Coordinator
360.725.2837
susanr@cted.wa.gov

Heike Syben
Program Coordinator
360.725.2839
heikes@cted.wa.gov

Naomi Ramos
Budget Specialist
360.725.2832
naomir@cted.wa.gov

Joyce Kilmer
Early Childhood Specialist
360.725.2843
joycek@cted.wa.gov

Judy King
Family Support & Health Specialist
360.725.2841
judyk@cted.wa.gov

Shannon Blood
BFNEP Coordinator
360.725.2838
shannonb@cted.wa.gov

Joyce DeShaye
IT Applications Specialist
360.725.2834
joyced@cted.wa.gov

Su S
Administrative Secretary
360.725.2840
sus@cted.wa.gov

To submit articles and ideas, or to request copies in accessible formats, please e-mail ECEAP_Admin@cted.wa.gov or call 360.725.2830

Permission is granted to reprint articles so long as they are credited to: ECEAP News, Children's Services, CTED.

To respect the children, families, and staff of ECEAP, permission from Children's Services is required before reprinting photos.

W A S H I N G T O N S T A T E ' S



Published Quarterly by:
Children's Services Unit
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525
Tel: 360.725.2830
Fax: 360.586.0489
ECEAP_Admin@cted.wa.gov
<http://www.cted.wa.gov/eceap>